



Photo courtesy of Paula Hinkel

# Savannah Update

*El Monte Cemetery Association*

*Volume 2, Number 3*

*March 2008*

## *Letter from Your President*

Savannah Family and Friends,

The association held its annual meeting on January 19, 2008 at the El Monte Historical Museum. There were two highpoints: one when Donna Crippen received a certificate of appreciation from the El Monte Cemetery Association. Donna has provided freely of her time and energy on behalf of Savannah Pioneer Cemetery; the second certificate of appreciation went to Jack Bezner for his thirty-six years of faithful service to Savannah Pioneer Cemetery. Jack was also presented with a beautiful oil painting of the camphor tree at the Savannah Cemetery. Jack had saved this tree during his tenure. Don and Mary Alley were the wonderful people who gave Jack the painting. Mary Alley was the artist who brought the giant camphor to life on canvas.



Your Board of Directors is striving for the long term care and preservation of the Savannah. Please continue making supportive donations, they are essential to our efforts. This newsletter and past newsletters have been extremely informative and well done. It takes many hours of hard work, especially by Board Member Heather Hooper, to create this tremendous publication. I would appreciate it if, after you have enjoyed it, you would please pass it along to a family member or an individual that may wish to help our preservation efforts.

There has been an increase in historical information requests coming into Savannah. If you would like to help in the history research and information gathering, please contact us. If you have family buried at Savannah, we would appreciate a brief family history so that it may be saved for future generations.

Please join us at the Cemetery on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 for our Memorial Day clean up. Come even if you are not able to do light work.

We would enjoy meeting you. If you bring flowers for your family at Savannah and need assistance in placing them, we will help you do so. Watch for other events in this newsletter and please participate; we need your support.

Sincerely,  
*Edwin (Randy) Wiggins*  
President

### **City of Rosemead Rummage Sale**

Savannah Cemetery will be participating in a rummage sale sponsored by the City of Rosemead. We will have one booth for rummage sale items and another booth selling candy apples, cotton candy, and water. If you have any small items suitable for a rummage sale that you would like to donate for the benefit of the cemetery, please call the cemetery at **626-287-4838** and leave a message or contact Janice Wiggins White at **626-443-8325**.

***ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE CEMETERY.***

**Sunday, March 30, 2008**

**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Parking lots behind Rosemead City Hall  
8838 Valley Blvd., Rosemead**

**COME SUPPORT SAVANNAH**



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**NOTABLE QUOTABLE**

"If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday.

~ Pearl Buck



**An Early Pioneer . . .**

**GEORGE WASHINGTON TWEEDY**

Prominent among the many men in Lower California whose untiring efforts in the early days of her prosperity have contributed to the upbuilding and development of her boundless resources, George W. Tweedy has already reaped the reward of a useful and busy life in the vicinity of Rivera. His original purchase of land in 1869 was but the nucleus of various additions of more recent date, so that he is now one of the largest land owners in this section of the country.

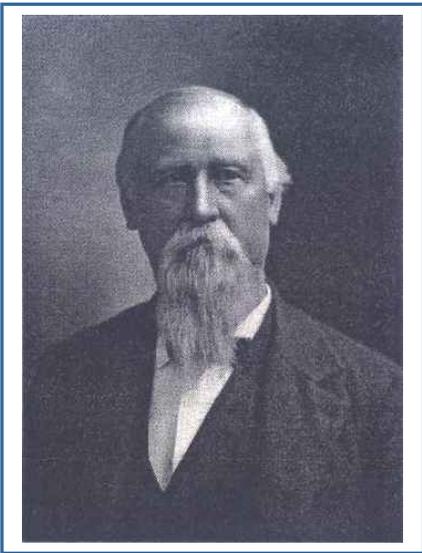
Mr. Tweedy is a native of Conway county, Ark., where he was born January 13, 1844. His parents were Robert and Mary (Holyfield) Tweedy, natives respectively of Illinois and Alabama. The tweedy family is of English extraction, the first members to arrive in America having settled in Alabama. In 1852 the more recent scions decided to try their fortunes in the far west, and undertook the long and perilous journey across the plains. A few out of many, their emigrant train wound its way through the wild and unsettled country, the faithful oxen unmindful of the inclement or sunshiny weather, and the danger from Indian attacks, and the fording of rushing streams and rivers increasing with the progress of the way into the west. The caravan reached El Monte in November, 1852, having started out over the plains the previous March. For a time the Tweedy family continued to reside in El Monte, and in 1862 they moved to Green Meadows, locating about eight miles southwest of Los Angeles. In 1893 they went to the San Antonio district, where they lived for a number of years.

George W. Tweedy started out to make an independent livelihood for himself in 1863, leaving his family comfortably located, and engaged in

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- March 30, 2008** Rummage Sale  
*See enclosed EMCA Calendar for details*
- April 26, 2008** Rummage Sale  
*See enclosed EMCA Calendar for details*
- May 24, 2008** Annual Clean-Up at Savannah  
*See enclosed EMCA Calendar for details*

agriculture. He went first to Gilroy, but soon returned to Los Angeles county, where he rented eighty acres of land near Downey, and himself engaged in agricultural pursuits. For a number of subsequent months his labors were of a diverse order, and took him to various sections of the country. In March, 1869, he settled on the ranch near Rivera which has since been his home, and where his efforts as a horticulturist have been attended with gratifying degree of success.



His land is composed of ninety-six acres on the home ranch, forty-five of which are devoted to the cultivation of walnuts and oranges, and to the carrying on of a model dairy, which is a source of pride and revenue to its owner. He also owns two hundred and thirty-four acres of land eight miles west of Rivera.

September 21, 1865, Mr. Tweedy married Martha Nicholson, a native of Texas, and of his union there have been nine children, eight of whom are living: James R., William T., Jackson, Lena, Lillian, Edward, George W., Jr., and Edith. Mrs. Tweedy died May 18, 1895, and February 14, 1898, Mr. Tweedy married Mary M. John, a native of Mississippi. Their daughter Ruth is living at home. In political faith Mr. Tweedy is affiliated with the Democratic party, and has held a number of important positions within the gift of the people, including that of trustee of the Rivera district school for twelve years. He is an active member of the First Baptist Church, and contributes generously towards its support. As a typical pioneer of the substantial and reliable kind, Mr. Tweedy has won the confidence and esteem of all appreciators of enterprise and good fellowship.

Source: Guinn, J. M., *Historical and Biographical Record of Los Angeles and Vicinity*, Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1901, Pages 799-800

### CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

In deep appreciation for their years of support, certificates were presented to Donna Crippen (left), Curator, El Monte Historical Museum and Jack Bezner (below right) for 36 years of caring for Savannah. Don and Mary Alley also presented Jack Bezner with a painting of our 100-year-old camphor tree painted by Mary.



Donna Crippen and Randy Wiggins



Randy Wiggins and Jack Bezner



Don and Mary Alley, Jack Bezner and Randy Wiggins

### Financial News

	12/01/07- 02/29/08	To Date
Donations*	\$1,626	\$23,203
Memorial Donations*		\$1,111
Oktoberfest		\$28,218
Plot Sales	\$4,400	\$4,400

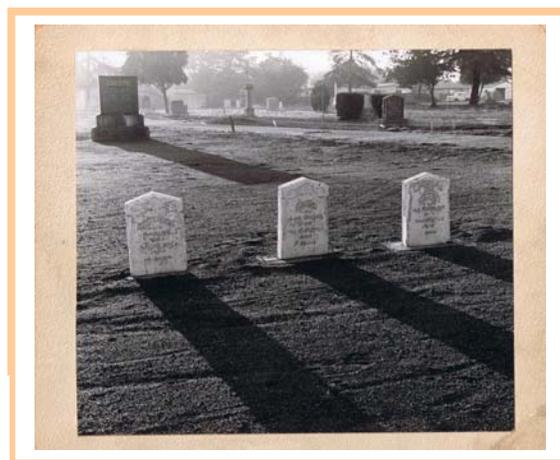
\*Corrected

Help these funds grow!! Send a donation:  
 El Monte Cemetery Association  
 P. O. Box 4247  
 El Monte, California 91734

### OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Joy Allen                 | Marlene Pittario-Hudson |
| American Legion Post #748 | Joseph & Eleanor Keller |
| Harold & Sally Baquet     | James Daniel Mahar      |
| Jerry Case                | Rosemead Women's Club   |
| Melinda Chase Cook        | Harry Slack             |
| Nancy & Stan Goldbloom    | Thomas Wilson           |
| Harriet Greene/Greene     |                         |
| Family Foundation         |                         |



John Guess Family headstones at Savannah (unknown date)

### MISSING RECORDS

Our cemetery records are sadly incomplete, especially for the late nineteenth century. The State of California did not require thorough record keeping until 1905. We have found old records that the people listed below might be interred at Savannah Cemetery, but we do not know where they are buried. If you have any information on any of those listed here, we would be glad to know.

Alexander, John H.	1831-1884	Bryant, Emma O.	d. 1877
Alexander, Thomas	1859-1889	Chauncey, J.	1898-1905
Alexander, Thomas J.	1873-1903	Hazen, Aldreck	1797-1873
Balter, Solomon B.	1868-1873	Hodson, Kenneth Glenn	1892-1897
Bivared, J.H.	1874-1878	Lightner, Hiram	1879-1889
Brown, Alice	1875-1894	Meyers, Charlotte	1840-1873
Brown, James M.	1869-1889	Mundy, L.G.	d. 1890
Brown, Martha J.	1863-1864	Orrick, Mary Cotman	1836-1879
Brown, Sarah B.	1871-1890	Smith, Elmira	1821-1897

El Monte Cemetery Association  
P. O. Box 4247  
El Monte, California 91734